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Biblical Work and Workers.

Edinburgh University has appointed Professor Otto Pfeleiderer, of Berlin, to be the next Gifford lecturer. He is one of the ablest and most popular scholars in Germany. His contributions to philosophy and theology are everywhere known and studied, and his work under this appointment will be awaited with high anticipation.

The venerable New Haven publication, entitled the "New Englander and Yale Review," is to cease its appearance as a monthly, and will be succeeded by a quarterly magazine bearing the last half of the name, the "Yale Review." The new editors are Yale men, Professors Fisher, Adams, Hadley, Farnham and Dr. Schwab. Ginn and Company are the publishers, and the first number of the new periodical will appear in May.

Rev. Lewis B. Paton, of East Orange, N. J., who is a graduate of Princeton College and Seminary, and has been for two years in Germany making a special study of Hebrew and the Cognates, has been called to the chair of Old Testament Languages and Literature in Hartford Theological Seminary, recently occupied by Prof. E. C. Bissell, who goes to McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago. At Oberlin Seminary, Prof E. I. Bosworth has been transferred from the chair of the English Bible to that of the New Testament Language and Literature.

Miss Amelia B. Edwards, who was known and honored in the biblical world by reason of her unequalled contributions on Egyptology, died April 16th, in London. Since 1880 she had devoted herself to the study of Egypt. She was an active promoter and an officer of the "Egypt Exploring Fund." She wrote much, one of her valuable contributions, aside from her books and lectures, being the article on "Recent Archæological Discoveries in Egypt," in the American supplement to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*. Her work has been of the first importance and excellence, and her influence as an Egyptologist will continue.

The fourth of the present series of British Museum lectures, by Mr. W. St. Chad Boscawen, was upon "The Semites in Babylonia." The lecturer said that one of the great surprises of the discovery of cuneiform literature had been that much of it was the work of a people speaking a language of the Semitic family. The curious and cumbrous writing, so contrary to the usual simplicity of Semitic minds, seemed totally at variance with such an idea; but the result of discoveries of the last few years has been to show that the Semites had been present in the country for many centuries, in fact from the earliest days of Chaldean civilization.

New books of interest and importance, soon to appear, are: "The Faith and Life of the Early Church," by Prof. W. F. Slater, M. A. (Hodder and Stoughton); two more volumes of Prof. Lightfoot's works, one of which will contain the various essays scattered through his commentaries on the epistles (Macmillans); "The Christian Doctrine of Immortality," being Dr. Salmond's

Cunningham Lectures (T. and T. Clark); the fifth and last volume of Renan's "Histoire du Peuple d'Israel," covering the period from the return after the Babylonian Captivity to the time of Christ, and forming the connection with his Life of Jesus, which was published thirty years ago.

Principal John Cairns, D. D., LL. D., who but a few weeks since resigned his duties as head of the United Presbyterian Hall, Edinburgh, because of failing health, died of heart-disease March 12th, at the age of seventy-four. For years he had been the most distinguished and influential member of the Scotch Presbyterian church, and beloved of every one. He was a preacher of remarkable tenderness and power. In metaphysics, theology and apologetics he was profound, able, wise, the staff of orthodox belief, and the example of a true Christian life. A few hours before his death he spoke words which gave the key to his life: "The great thing for every man is to forget himself absolutely in the service of God."

The faculty of Yale Divinity School has been increased by two new instructors: Rev. Arthur Fairbanks, Ph. D., on Social Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion; and Samuel S. Curry, B. D., Ph. D., in Elocution. Rev. R. F. Horton, M. A., of London, is to deliver the next Lyman Beecher course of lectures, considering "The Preacher's Message as a Communication to him from God and through him to the People." The curriculum has been improved, and optional studies added. To graduate students are offered the following biblical studies: A critical reading of Delitzsch's Hebrew New Testament; testimonies of the early ecclesiastical writers relating to the Gospels; Weiss's Life of Jesus, compared with other authors; Orelli's O. T. Prophecy, with references to Briggs, Riehm, Delitzsch, et al.; Wendt's Content of the Teaching of Jesus; the Gospel of John with reference to the question of its relation to Paulinism and to Alexandrianism. The Hebrew department, under this year's new Professor, Dr. E. L. Curtis, has been attractive and successful, as was at the outset anticipated.

With March began the publication of a quarterly magazine called the "New World," edited by Professors Everett and Toy of Harvard University, Pres. Cone of Buchtel College, and Rev. N. P. Gilman, of Boston: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., are the publishers. The purpose is to "discuss the great problems of Religion, Ethics and Theology in a liberal and progressive spirit. The New World which its editors have in mind is that which is developing under the light of modern science, philosophy, criticism and philanthropy,—all of which, rightly viewed, are the friends and helpers of enduring religious faith. To positive and constructive statements of such an order of things, as distinguished from the old world of sectarianism, obscurantism and dogmatism, the 'New World' is pledged." So reads the prospectus. The first number indicates quite clearly what the position and tone of the magazine are to be. Without a statement to that effect, it would seem to become the exponent of modern Unitarianism, advanced Biblical criticism, and a theology still newer and freer than the New. The contributors to the March issue are Lyman Abbott, Prof. Everett, Prof. J. G. Schurman, Prof. Toy, and other names indicating the tone of the articles, which are brilliant, earnest, able, fresh and strong. However one may feel toward the positions taken by the authors, there is certainly stimulus and a wider view of truth to be gained from such reading. The "New World" takes place at once in the front rank of American religious journals, and its influence will not be slight or circumscribed.